

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 203538

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: ROUGHING UP OF U.S. CORRESPONDENTS

FOLLOWING IS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON'S NEWS
BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 16:

QUOTE

Q: I WAS WONDERING WHETHER YOU HAD ANY REACTION TO THIS
ENTIRELY NEW WAY OF REVIEWING MODERN ART IN RUSSIA, IN
GENERAL, AND IN PARTICULAR WHETHER YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO
SAY ABOUT THE MANHANDLING OF AMERICAN REPORTERS THERE.

A: AT FOUR O'CLOCK MOSCOW TIME TODAY OUR EMBASSY PRO-
TESTED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE FAILURE
OF THE POLICE TO PROTECT TWO AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS
FROM MANHANDLING. THIS WAS DONE BY OUR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
PERSONALLY IN MOSCOW.

Q: WAS THAT ORAL OR WRITTEN?

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A: ORAL.

Q: WHOM DID HE SEE?

A: AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

Q: DO YOU HAVE HIS NAME? WHO IS THE CHARGE NOW?

A: ADOLPH DUBS.

Q: WHAT LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY?

A: POLITICAL LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

Q: DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OR VICE MINISTER?

A: I HAVEN'T GOT THE NAME OF THE ACTUAL PERSON
HERE.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT RESPONSE HE RECEIVED?

A: WAIT A MINUTE. I BELIEVE ACTUALLY IT WAS THE
ACTING DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN
OFFICE.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT RESPONSE HE RECEIVED?

A: I DO NOT HAVE THAT.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE OTHER PART OF THE QUESTION?

A: NO, I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE FIRST PART OF THE
QUESTION.

Q: YOU SAID A PROTEST OVER THE MANHANDLING OF TWO
CORRESPONDENTS, AND THE REPORTS SPEAK OF THREE CORRES-
PONDENTS HAVING BEEN HURT.

A: THERE WERE TWO THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHICH TWO?

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A: CHRISTOPHER WREN OF THE NEW YORK TIMES AND
LYNNE OLSON OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Q: MICHAEL PARKS OF THE BALTIMORE SUN WAS ALSO
THERE.

Q: AND RUSSELL JONES OF ABC.

A: LET ME CHECK AND SEE.

Q: IS A RESPONSE EXPECTED IN A CASE LIKE THIS?

A: I WILL LET YOU KNOW IF THERE IS A RESPONSE AND WHEN THERE IS A RESPONSE.

Q: WELL, CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC? WAS THE PROTEST ABOUT THE TWO AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS BEING MANHANDLED, OR WAS IT ABOUT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS PER SE BEING MANHANDLED?

A: IT WAS TO PROTEST THE FAILURE OF THE POLICE TO PROTECT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS FROM MANHANDLING.

Q: NOT TWO AMERICANS -- "AMERICAN."

A: THAT IS RIGHT. I HAD IN MY OWN BRIEFING HERE THE SPECIFIC NAMES OF TWO. NOW DUBS IS MUCH CLOSER TO IT THAN I AM HERE. THAT IS WHY I CITED TWO IN MY BRIEFING.

Q: IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT SATISFIED THAT IT WAS NOT IN FACT THE SOVIET POLICE THEMSELVES WHO WERE ENGAGED IN THE MANHANDLING?

A: I CANNOT COMMENT ON THAT. WE DO NOT HAVE MUCH MORE AT THIS STAGE THAN THE PRESS REPORTS THAT WE HAVE ALL READ. I WOULD RATHER RESERVE ON THAT UNTIL WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION FROM MOSCOW FROM OUR EMBASSY. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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